

What is the Chiva Youth Committee (CYC)?

In 2011 Chiva and a group of young people set up a committee to work alongside Chiva staff and the Trustees. The committee has two main purposes:

1. To make sure Chiva's work has the views and experiences of children and young people living with HIV at its centre.
2. To bring together a group of young people from across the UK to represent their peers and give a voice to all children and young people living with HIV in the UK.

What does being a committee member mean?

There are up to 20 members of the committee aged between 13-17. We ask committee members to come to 3 residential meetings a year, these will all be in the school holidays or on weekends. They are also invited to attend a Chiva Conference which is usually on a school day in March or April. We also hold regular zoom meetings.

A committee member is there to give a voice to all young people growing up with HIV in the UK. At times we will ask them to run consultations with other young people (for example at our camp or online through our website or our community instagram). The CYC also get consulted a lot as a group by other HIV charities or pharmaceutical companies.

We sometimes get calls from journalists, film makers etc. Committee members will have the chance to speak to these people if they wish too. We support committee members to have their stories told but their identities protected. They can also sometimes be asked to give their views anonymously through online campaigns.

Part of the committee's role will be to work with campaigners and politicians in parliament.

We also encourage and support committee members to get involved with other projects that interest them as they come along. These could be outside of the UK (European or International projects) or things inside of the UK.

Committee members can get as little or as much as they want from being a member.

How much time does it take?

We ask committee members to come to at least 3 residential meetings a year. They will also have the chance to attend and speak at a Chiva Conference. Chiva will contact them through email, whatsapp or telephone in-between these meetings as and when things happen. It is really important that they reply to messages as this is the main way we will communicate with them. It is

important that the young person wants to be on the committee and sees it as an important and positive thing as if they don't, there will be someone else who does.

There are certain responsibilities to uphold as a CYC member, particularly when it comes to representing the organization and during online interactions with other young people in the Chiva community. The young person may be asked to leave the CYC if they are unable to fulfill these responsibilities.

Each member holds their position for approximately 2 years. If they turn 18 during this time they may leave sooner. If during that time they feel they can't commit anymore, that's fine, we will advertise and recruit someone else.

If you'd like to discuss the youth committee please don't hesitate to contact Chiva and the Participation Manager, the details are below.

Warm regards

Abi Carter
Participation Manager
Chiva

abi.carter@chiva.org.uk

0117 905 5149

07807 705062

Working days – Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday.